

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 COME-00 TRSE-00 AID-05 AGRE-00

SS-15 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 H-01

/052 W

-----069581 162032Z /43

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FM AMCONSUL NAHA

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

INFO SECSTATE WASH DC 2522

AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE

AMCONSUL FUKUOKA

AMCONSUL SAPPORO

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SUBJECT: USHIBA MISSION ON TRADE QUESTIONS REF: TOKYO 19217 (NOTAL)

1. THERE HAS BEEN VIRTUALLY NO COMMENTARY BY OKINAWAN NEWS MEDIA THUS FAR ADDRESSED SPECIFICALLY TO USHIBA MISSION AND US REACTION TO IT. WE HAVE SEEN ONLY STRAIGHT PRESS REPORTING BASED ENTIRELY ON WIRE SERVICE STORIES DATED WASHINGTON AND TOKYO.

2. HOWEVER, NEWS MEDIA HAVE GIVEN MAJOR ATTENTION TO THE BROAD QUESTION OF GOJ MOVES TO EASE IMPORT RESTRICTIONS. PREFECTURAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, AGRIC COOP OFFICERS, AND EDITORIALS HAVE

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BEEN TAKING GOJ TO TASK FOR SEVERAL WEEKS FOR PROPOSING THE EASING OF IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS WHICH IS SEEN AS A MAJOR THREAT TO LOCAL PRODUCERS, SUCH AS CATTLE RAISERS, PROCESSORS OF MEAT PRODUCTS, AND FRUIT AND VEGETABLE GROWERS. (BEEF IS BEING IMPORTED TO OKINAWA ALMOST ENTIRELY FROM AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND, AND CANNED MEATS FROM DENMARK AND THE NETHERLANDS.) AT SAME TIME, CONSUMER GROUPS HAVE BEEN PUBLICLY ATTACKING IMPORTERS FOR NOT PASSING ON TO CONSUMERS BENEFITS

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FROM YEN APPRECIATION.

3. PRIVATELY, OKINAWAN IMPORTERS ARE, OF COURSE, ELATED BY US PRESSURES UPON GOJ TO EASE IMPORT RESTRICTIONS. THEY ARE SAYING THE USG HAS BEEN PATIENT FOR TOO LONG, AND SHOULD COME UP WITH DEADLINES AND OTHER MEANS TO FORCE THE GOJ BUREAUCRACY TO CHANGE ITS PALPABLE BIAS AGAINST IMPORTATION. THEY STATE THAT IN THESE DAYS OF YEN APPRECIATION, LOWERING OF TARIFFS IS NOT ALL

THAT IMPORTANT. WHAT ARE IMPORTANT ARE MEANINGFUL EXPANSION OF
IMPORT QUOTAS, REMOVAL OF NON-TARIFF BARRIERS (E.G. NUMEROUS
STANDARDS AND INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS PLACED ON ELECTRICAL GOODS
AND AUTOMOBILES, AND REQUIREMENT LEVIED ON IMPORTERS OF SOAP
AND COSMETIC PRODUCTS TO MAINTAIN ANALYTICAL LABORATORIES), AND

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EASING OF BUREAUCRATIC "HARASSMENT", E.G. EXCESSIVE GOJ
PUNCTILIOUSNESS WITH RESPECT CUSTOMS AND HEALTH INSPECTION
DOCUMENTATION.

DECONTROLLED AFTER 4 YEARS FROM ORIGINATING DATE.

KNOWLES

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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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